1 2 3 4	JAMES A. SARRAIL, ESQ. (SBN 43075 MONICA CASTILLO, ESQ. (SBN 14615 SARRAIL, CASTILLO & HALL, LLP 111 Anza Blvd., Suite 203 Burlingame, CA 94010 Telephone: (650) 685-9200 Facsimile: (650) 685-9206)4)
5	Attorneys for Plaintiff Richard Johnson	
6		!
7	·	
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
9	IN AND FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
10		
11	RICHARD JOHNSON,)
12	Plaintiff,	ONE COMPLAINT FOR PRELIMINARY AND
13	vs.	PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND DAMAGES: DENIAL OF CIVIL
14	ADNAN MAGAÑA; SANTA CLARA	RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES TO PHYSICALLY
15	FOOD CENTER; OWNER OF 960 E. SANTA CLARA STREET, SAN JOSE	DISABLED PERSONS, PER CALIFORNIA STATUTES (INCLUDING
	CALIFORNIA; and DOES 1-10,) CIVIL CODE §§ 51, 52, 54, 54.1, 54.3, 54.4 AND 55), INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
17	Defendants.	PER TITLE III, AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990
18		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
19		·
20		
21	Plaintiff, RICHARD JOHNSON ("JOHNSON") complains of defendants ADNAN	
22	MAGAÑA; SANTA CLARA FOOD CENTER; OWNER OF 960 E. SANTA CLARA STREET,	
23	SAN JOSE CALIFORNIA and DOES 1-10, Inclusive, and each of them, and alleges as	
	follows:	
25	A. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
26	1. This case involves the denial of accessible public facilities to JOHNSON and other	
27	disabled persons at the Santa Clara Food Center restaurant ("SC FOOD CENTER") located	
28		
	COMPLAINT 1	

at 960 E. Santa Clara St, San Jose, California 95116. JOHNSON, a qualified disabled person, experienced numerous barriers to access as a result of the access violations at SC FOOD CENTER, including but not limited to parking, entry, counters, signage, access aisles, seating, doors, doorways, and bathrooms. JOHNSON has been a disabled individual since an accident left him paraplegic in or about July 2009 and is a "person with a disability" or a "physically handicapped person". JOHNSON uses a wheelchair when ambulating and is unable to use portions of public facilities which are not accessible to disabled persons, lincluding those who use a wheelchair. JOHNSON was denied his rights to full and equal access at these facilities, and was denied his civil rights under both California law and federal law, because these facilities were not, and are not now, properly accessible to physically disabled person, including those who use a wheelchair. JOHNSON seeks injunctive relief to require defendants to make these facilities accessible to disabled persons and to ensure that any disabled person who attempts to use SC FOOD CENTER will be provided properly disabled-accessible facilities. JOHNSON also seeks recovery of damages for his discriminatory experiences and denial of access and civil rights, which denial is continuing as a result of defendants' failure and refusal to provide disabled-accessible facilities. JOHNSON also seeks recovery of reasonable statutory attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs.

B. JURISDICTION

12

13

14

15

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

2. This Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 USC §1331 for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 USC §12101 et seq. Pursuant to pendant jurisdiction, attendant and related causes of action arising from the same facts are also brought under California law, including but not limited to violations of California Government Code §§4450 et seq, California Civil Code §§51, 52, 54, 54.1, 54.4 and 55; and Title 24 California Code of Regulations.

C. VENUE

3. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 USC §1391(b)and is founded on the fact that the real property which is the subject of this action is located in this district, that

COMPLAINT 2

JOHNSON resides in this district and that JOHNSON's causes of action arose in this district.

D. INTRADISTRICT

4. This case should be assigned to the San Jose intradistrict as the real property which is the subject of this action is located in this intradistrict and JOHNSON's causes of action arose in this district.

E. PARTIES

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- Plaintiff, RICHARD JOHNSON, is a qualified physically disabled person who has been disabled since an accident left him paraplegic in or about July 2009 and is a "person with a disability" or a "physically handicapped person". JOHNSON uses a wheelchair when ambulating, and is a "disabled" person within the meaning of Civil Code §54 and §54.1. Defendants, ADNAN MAGAÑA; SANTA CLARA FOOD CENTER; OWNER OF 960 E. SANTA CLARA STREET, SAN JOSE CALIFORNIA; and DOES 1-10, Inclusive, are the owners, subsidiaries, operators, lessors and lessees of the business property, buildings and/or portions thereof known as Santa Clara Food Center restaurant ("SC FOOD CENTER"), located at 960 E. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, California 95116. SC FOOD CENTER is a "public accommodation" and "business establishment" subject to the requirements of California Civil Code §§51 et seq and §§54. SC FOOD CENTER, since July 1, 1982, has undergone construction and/or "alterations, structural repairs, or additions", subjecting such facility to disabled access requirements of California Title 24, the State Building Code. Further, irrespective of the alteration history, such premises are subject to the "readily achievable" barrier removal requirements of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- 6. The true names and capacities of Defendants Does 1 through 10, Inclusive, are unknown to JOHNSON, who therefore sues said defendants by such fictitious names. JOHNSON is informed and believes and alleges thereon that each of the defendants herein designated as "Doe" is legally responsible in some manner for the events and happenings herein referred to and caused injury and damages proximately thereby to JOHNSON.

COMPLAINT 3

JOHNSON prays leave of Court to amend this Complaint to show such true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.

7. Defendants ADNAN MAGAÑA; SANTA CLARA FOOD CENTER; OWNER OF 960 E. SANTA CLARA STREET, SAN JOSE CALIFORNIA; and Does 1 through 10, Inclusive, are and were the owners, subsidiaries, operators, lessees and/or lessors of the subject property and/or buildings at all times relevant to this Complaint. JOHNSON is informed and believes and alleges thereon that each of the defendants herein is the agent, employee or representative of each of the other defendants, and performed all acts and omissions stated herein within the scope of such agency or employment or representative capacity and is responsible in some manner for the acts and omissions of the other defendants in proximately causing the damages complained of herein.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION DENIAL OF FULL AND EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES IN A PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION (California Govt. Code §4450 et seq; Civil Code §\$54, 54.1 et seq)

- 8. JOHNSON pleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, the factual allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 7, above, and incorporates them herein by reference as if separately plead hereafter.
- 9. JOHNSON and other similarly situated physically disabled persons, including those who require the use of a wheelchair, are unable to use public facilities on a "full and equal" basis unless each such facility is in compliance with the provisions of California Government Code §4450 et seq. JOHNSON is a member of that portion of the public whose rights are protected by the provisions of California Government Code §4450 et seq. and Civil Code §§ 54 and 54.1.
- 10. Government Code §4450 et seq were enacted "to ensure that all buildings, structures, sidewalks, curbs, and related facilities, constructed in this state by the use of state, county, or municipal funds, or the funds of any political subdivision of the state shall be accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities". On information and belief,

Government Code §4450 et seq apply to SC FOOD CENTER. Civil Code §54 provides that: "Individuals with disabilities or medical conditions have the same right as the general public to the full and free use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, medical facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and physicians' offices, public facilities, and other public places. "Civil Code §54.1 provides that: "Individuals with disabilities shall be entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to accommodations..." The codes relating to such public accommodations also require that "[w]hen sanitary facilities are made available for the public, clients or employees....they shall be made available for persons with disabilities." Title 24, California Code of Regulations, formerly known as the California Administrative Code, was in effect at the time of each alteration which occurred at such public facility since July 1, 1982, thus requiring access complying with the specifications of Title 24 whenever each such "alteration, structural repair or addition" was carried out. Defendants and/or their predecessors in interest carried out alterations, structural repairs or additions to the subject building and its parking facilities during the period Title 24 has been in effect.

11. JOHNSON has been a disabled individual since an accident left him paraplegic in or about July 2009. His first visit to SC FOOD CENTER was on or about November 20, 2015, when he wanted a meal, and his most recent visit was on or about January 16, 2016. During each of his visits to SC FOOD CENTER, he has experienced numerous barriers to access in violation of both federal and state access for disabled people laws, including but not limited to the following:

- JOHNSON experienced difficulties in the parking lot because:
 - there is no van parking for his vehicle, a side-loader van;
 - there is a lack of a disabled parking tow away sign;
 - the parking aisles are short;
 - there is a lack of a van parking sign;
 - there is a lack of a \$250 tow-away sign; and
 - in order to reach the front door of the restaurant, he had to go around

the rear of the parked vehicles. 1 JOHNSON experienced difficulties in entering the business because: 2 of an entry that is too tight; and 3 the entrance door is difficult to open, heavy and fast-closing. 4 JOHNSON experienced difficulties inside the business because: 5 the counter height is too high; 6 7 the cashier's counter is too high; table seating is tight and non-compliant or non-existent; 8 interior path of travel is non-existent/ too tight for a wheelchair user; 9 10 and, no clear directional signage within the restaurant to the ADA bathroom. 11 JOHNSON experienced difficulties inside the bathroom because: 12 the door knob is not compliant and requires twisting; 13 the improper slope made it very difficult to enter the bathroom; 14 the toilet cover dispenser is high and is blocked by the toilet; 15 the toilet flush handle is short and out of reach on the wrong side of 16 the toilet: 17 18 the rear and side grab bars are improperly located; there is no transfer space next to the toilet due to a garbage can and 19 the paper towel dispenser; 20 the soap dispenser is too high and unreachable; and 21 here is no clear space at the door due to the improper slope. 22 23 JOHNSON was humiliated and embarrassed at not being able to properly use the 24 bathroom facilities, and in particular not be able to properly use the toilet, and suffered a 25 toilet-accident as a result. He was also very fearful when he had to traverse the area behind 26 parked cars to try to get to the entrance, as he has recently been hit by a car in a similar 27 parking area situation. These barriers have rendered SC FOOD CENTER and its premises

illegally inaccessible to and unuseable by physically disabled persons, including JOHNSON.

All facilities must be brought into compliance with applicable federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements, according to proof.

- 12. Further, each and every violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (as pled in the Third Cause of Action below), also constitutes a separate and distinct violation of California Civil Code §54(c), thus independently justifying an award of damages and injunctive relief pursuant to California law, including but not limited to, Civil Code §§54.3 and 55.
- 13. Further, each and every violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (as pled in the Third Cause of Action below), also constitutes a separate and distinct violation of California Civil Code §54.1(d), thus independently justifying an award of damages and injunctive relief pursuant to California law, including but not limited to, Civil Code §§54.3 and 55.
- 14. JOHNSON seeks injunctive relief to prohibit the acts and omissions of defendants as complained of herein, which are continuing on a daily basis and which have wrongfully excluded JOHNSON and other similarly situated members of the public from full and equal access to these public facilities. Such acts and omissions are the cause of humiliation and mental and emotional suffering of JOHNSON in that these actions continue to treat JOHNSON as an inferior and second class citizen and serve to discriminate against him on the sole basis that he is a person with a disability who requires the use of a wheelchair for movement. JOHNSON is unable, so long as such acts and omissions of defendants continue, to achieve equal access to and use of these public facilities, and has been harmed as a result of trying to access the facilities and/or has been deterred and unable to access the facilities. JOHNSON alleges that he intends to return and purchase meals once legally required access has been provided. The acts of defendants have proximately caused and will continue to cause irreparable harm and injury to JOHNSON if not enjoined by this court.
 - 15. Whereas, JOHNSON asks this court to preliminarily and permanently enjoin any

continuing refusal by defendants to grant full and equal access to JOHNSON in the respects complained of and to require defendants to comply forewith with the applicable statutory requirements relating to access for disabled persons. Such injunctive relief is provided by California Government Code §4452 and California Civil Code §55, and other law. JOHNSON further requests that the court award damages pursuant to Civil Code §54.3 and other law and attorney fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to Civil Code §54.3 and 455, Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5 and other law, all as hereinafter prayed for.

16. As a result of the denial of equal access to these facilities, and due to the acts and omissions of defendants and each of them in owning, subsidizing, operating, leasing, constructing, altering and maintaining the subject facilities, JOHNSON suffered a violation of his civil rights, including but not limited to, rights under Civil Code §\$54 and 54.1, all to his damages per Civil Code §54.3, including general, statutory and treble damages, as hereinafter stated. Defendants' actions and omissions to act constitute discrimination against JOHNSON on the sole basis that he was and is physically disabled and unable, because of the architectural and other barriers created and/or maintained by the defendants in violation of the subject laws, to use the public facilities on a full and equal basis as other persons.

17. At all times herein mentioned, defendants knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have known, that their barriers and practices at their subject facilities violated disabled access requirements and standards and had a discriminatory affect upon JOHNSON and upon other physically disabled persons, but defendants have failed and refused to rectify these violations, and presently continue a course of conduct of failure to remove architectural barriers that discriminate against JOHNSON and similarly situated disabled persons.

18. As a result of defendants' acts, omissions and conduct, JOHNSON has been required to incur attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs, in order to enforce his rights and to enforce provisions of the law protecting access for disabled persons and prohibiting discrimination against disabled persons. JOHNSON therefore seeks recovery of all

.

reasonable attorney fees and costs, pursuant to the provisions of California Civil Code §§54.3 and 55. Additionally, JOHNSON's lawsuit is intended to require that defendants make their facilities accessible to all disabled members of the public, justifying "public interest" attorney fees and costs pursuant to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5 and other applicable law.

WHEREFORE, JOHNSON prays for damages and injunctive relief as hereinafter stated.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA LAW: UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, CIVIL CODE §§51, 52, and AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AS INCORPORATED BY CIVIL CODE §51(f)

- 19. JOHNSON pleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, the factual allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 18, above, and incorporates them herein by reference as if separately plead hereafter.
- 20. At all times relevant to this complaint, California Civil Code §51 has provided that physically disabled persons are free and equal citizens of the state, regardless of medical condition or disability.
- 21. California Civil Code §52 provides that discrimination by defendants against JOHNSON on the basis of his disability constitutes a violation of the anti-discrimination provision of §51 and 52.
- Defendants' discrimination also constitutes a separate and distinct violation of California Civil Code §52.
- 23. Any violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (as pled in the Third Cause of Action) constitutes a violation of California Civil Code §51(f) thus independently justifying an award of damages and injunctive relief pursuant to California law.
- 24. The acts and omissions of defendants as herein alleged constitute a denial of access to and use of the described public facilities by physically disabled persons within the meaning of California Civil Code §§51 and 52. As a proximate result of defendants' actions and omissions, defendants have discriminated against JOHNSON in violation of California

1 Civil Code §§51 and 52.

25. As a result of defendants' acts, omissions and conduct, JOHNSON has been required to incur attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs as provided by statute, in order to enforce his rights and to enforce provisions of the law protecting access for disabled persons and prohibiting discrimination against disabled persons. JOHNSON therefore seeks recovery of all reasonable attorney fees and costs, pursuant to the provisions of California Civil Code §§51 and 52. Additionally, JOHNSON's lawsuit is intended to require that defendants make their facilities accessible to all disabled members of the public, justifying "public interest" attorney fees and costs pursuant to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5 and other applicable law.

WHEREFORE, JOHNSON prays for damages and injunctive relief as hereinafter stated.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 42 U.S.C. §§12101 et seq

- 26. JOHNSON pleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, the factual allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 25, above, and incorporates them herein by reference as if separately plead hereafter.
- 27. In passing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), Congress' stated purpose, in relevant part, was to mandate a national prohibition of discrimination against physically disabled persons and to provide standards to address the discrimination.
- 28. As part of the ADA, Congress passed the definition of "Public Accommodation" to include "...other sales or rental establishment" (42 U.S.C. §12181(7)(E).
- 29. The ADA clearly states that "[n]o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodations by any person who owns, leases, or leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation." 42 U.S.C. §12182. The specific prohibitions against discrimination included, but were not limited to the

1 ||following:

- (a) §302(b)(1)(A)(ii): "It shall be discriminatory to afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals."
- (b) §302(b)(2)(A)(ii): "A failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities."
- (c) §302(b)(2)(A)(iii): "A failure to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied service, segregated, or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services..."
- (d) §302(b)(2)(A)(iv): "A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication barriers that are structural in nature, in existing facilities...where such removal is readily achievable;" and
- (e) §302(b)(2)(A)(v): "Where an entity can demonstrate that the removal of a barrier under clause (iv) is not readily achievable, a failure to make such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations available through alternative methods if such methods are readily achievable."

The acts and omissions of defendants set forth herein were in violation of JOHNSON's rights under the ADA and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 28 CFR Part 36 et seq.

30. The removal of each of the barriers complained of by JOHNSON as alleged above were at all times herein mentioned since January 26, 1992 "readily achievable" under the standards of §302 of the ADA. As noted above, removal of each and every one of the architectural barriers complained of herein were also required under California law. Further,

COMPLAINT

4 5

on information and belief, alterations, structural repairs or additions since January 26, 1993, have also independently triggered requirement for removal of barriers to access for disabled persons per §303 of the ADA.

- 31. JOHNSON is informed and believes and alleges thereon that, as of the date of his encounter of the premises and as of the filing of this Complaint, the premises have denied and continue to deny full and equal access to JOHNSON and to other disabled persons in other respects which violate JOHNSON's rights to full and equal access and which discriminate against JOHNSON on the basis of his disability, thus wrongfully denying to JOHNSON the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations, in violation of §§302 and 303 of the ADA.
- 32. JOHNSON is informed and believes and alleges thereon that defendants have continued to violate the law and deny the rights of JOHNSON and other disabled persons access to SC FOOD CENTER since on or before JOHNSON's encounters, as previously noted. Pursuant to the ADA, §308, 42 U.S.C. 12188 et seq, JOHNSON is entitled to the remedies and procedures set forth in §204(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000a-3(a), as JOHNSON is being subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability in violation of the ADA or has reasonable grounds for believing that he is about to be subjected to discrimination. Pursuant to §308(a)(2), "In cases of violations of §302(b)(2)(A)(iv) and §303(a)... injunctive relief shall include an order to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by this title."
- 33. JOHNSON seeks relief pursuant to remedies set forth in §204(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000a-3(a), and pursuant to Federal Regulations adopted to implement the ADA. JOHNSON is a qualified disabled person for purposes of §308(a) of the ADA who is being subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability in violation of Title III and who has reasonable grounds for believing he will be subjected to such discrimination each time he attempts to use the facilities at SC FOOD CENTER.

WHEREFORE, JOHNSON prays for damages and injunctive relief as hereinafter

stated.

2

3

1

JOHNSON prays that this court:

4 5

8

10

11

12 13

14 15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25

26 27

28

PRAYER

- 1. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction directing defendants as current owners, subsidiaries, operators, lessors, and/or lessees of the property and premises to modify the above-described property and premises and related facilities so that each provides full and equal access to all persons, including persons with physical disabilities such as wheelchair users, and issue a preliminary and permanent injunction directing defendants to provide facilities useable by JOHNSON and similarly situated persons with disabilities, and which provide full and equal access, as required by law, including appropriate changes in policy;
- 2. Retain jurisdiction over the defendants until such time as the court is satisfied that defendants' unlawful policies, practices, acts and omissions, and maintenance of inaccessible public facilities as complained of herein no longer occur and can not recur;
- Award to JOHNSON all appropriate damages, including but not limited to statutory damages, personal injury damages, general damages, and treble damages in an amount within the jurisdiction of the court, all according to proof;
- 4. Award to JOHNSON all reasonable statutory attorney fees, litigation expenses, and costs of this proceeding as provided by law;
 - 5. Award prejudgement interest pursuant to California Civil Code §3291; and
 - 6. Grant such other and further relief as this court may deem just and proper.

2016 SARRAIL, CASTILLO & HALL, LLP Dated:

By:

Attorneys for Plaintiff RICHARD JOHNSON

COMPLAINT

Case 5:16-cv-04322-HRL Document 1 Filed 08/01/16 Page 15 of 15